CLAIMS

1.   Method of measuring similarity between images, characterized in that it performs, for each image, the following steps:
   - segmentation of the image (1, 2, 3, 4),
   - classification of the segments as a function of their orientation to give classes (5),
   - calculation of a histogram of the number of segments as a function of class (6),
   - calculation of a histogram of the number of pixels belonging to the segments of one and the same class as a function of class (6),
   - comparison of the histograms of each image to give a measurement of similarity (7).

2.   Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that it also calculates a histogram (6) corresponding to the distribution of the segments about the centre of gravity of each class.

3.   Method according to Claim 2, characterized in that, to calculate the histogram, it performs a calculation of the standard deviation of the distances from the middles of the segments of a class to the centre of gravity of the class considered.

4.   Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the comparison of the histograms consists of a subtraction of the ordinates, class by class and of a sum, over the set of classes, of the values obtained for each class.

5.   Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the histograms are coded according to the MPEG-7 standard.

6.   Method of clustering images of a database, characterized in that the clustering is performed as a

function of the measurements of similarity according to the method of Claim 1 to give clusters of images.

7.   Method of creating video summaries, characterized in that it selects at least one of the images of at least one cluster calculated according to the method of Claim 6.

8.   Method of video indexation, characterized in that it selects at least one of the images of at least one cluster calculated according to the method of Claim 6, as indexation image.

9.   Device for measuring similarity between images, characterized in that it comprises a circuit for processing and for calculation of histograms receiving digital data defining these images so as to perform, for each of them, the following operations:

   - segmentation of the image (1, 2, 3, 4),
   - classification of the segments as a function of their orientation to give classes (5),
   - calculation of a histogram of the number of segments as a function of class (6),
   - calculation of a histogram of the number of pixels belonging to the segments of one and the same class as a function of class (6),
   - comparison of the histograms of each image to give a measurement of similarity (7).